

Tyler Williams | Arborist
Senior Urban Forester | City of Melbourne
Council House 2, 240 Little Collins Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
29 April 2026

Dear Tyler,
NGV St Kilda Road, Southbank
Tree Condition Assessment and works recommendations

Treelogic was engaged by City of Melbourne to undertake an audit of eleven (11) trees as part of the Heritage Permit condition of the 'Australian Birds' lightboxes on St Kilda Road, Southbank, that is located on the median adjacent to the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV). The purpose of the assessment was to determine tree condition and provide any relevant tree management recommendations. Refer to Figure 1 below for aerial image of site.



Figure 1: Aerial view of nominated study area within St Kilda Road, Southbank. Red border indicated study area. (Nearmap 14/02/2026)

Method

A site inspection was conducted on 14 April 2026 under mild conditions, by Monique Allison (ISA Certified Arborist #SA-0110A, TRAQ trained and Qualified) and Ethan Sien Yang Lua (ISA certified arborist #SG-0843, TRAQ trained and Qualified). All trees were assessed from the ground, with observations made of both the growing environment and surrounding area. No tree or soil samples were collected.

A Visual Tree Assessment (VTA) was conducted, and observations were made of the tree species, type, age category and condition. Tree measurements recorded included height, width, diameter at standard height (DSH) taken with diameter tape at 1.4 metres above ground level and basal measured above root flare (AS4970:2025). Refer to Appendix 1 for Tree Data Table.

Equipment used to record information included, Panasonic Toughpad, Nikon Forestry Pro, diameter tape, builders tape, and Iphone used for images.

Assessment data was collected independently during the current audit, with findings reviewed and compared with the existing data within the original and post construction report (Treelogic Report Ref 010721 NGV Art Installation, dated 22 April 2020 and Treelogic Post Construction Report, dated 03 May 2021).

Tree locations have been approximated based on a combination of recent aerial imagery, and field observations. Refer to Appendix 2 for Location Map and Appendix 3 for Photos.

Limitations of assessment

Observations were made to the best of the arborists' ability due to the presence of a busy roadway and associated safety risks to staff. No soil tests, foliar tests or samples were taken for analysis. The assessed trees are a deciduous species, as such, some trees have started losing leaves as trees were assessed in autumn.

Observations

All recorded trees were identified as *Platanus x acerifolia* (London Plane). Tree health was generally consistent with the findings of the 2021 post-construction report. Foliage density and canopy fullness indicate that the trees were displaying typical characteristics for the species within their growing environment.

Installation of 'Australian Birds' artwork lights within the TPZs/SRZs was undertaken using non-destructive digging (NDD). Localised cambial damage to some roots was reported in post NDD Treelogic NGV Artwork Installation report (site visit conducted by Kelvin Lui on 26/11/2020). The report notes that the encroachments were considered of a minor (<10%) nature and that the trees were expected to remain viable post construction.

London Plane trees have proven tolerance as an urban tree and are known to tolerate root pruning if managed appropriately (Benson & Morgenroth, 2025). Newly recorded data was compared to the Treelogic Post Installation report (site visit conducted by Kelvin Lui on 29/05/2021) the assessed trees' health were not altered significantly due to construction within the NRZs/SRZs.

Although other conditions of concern were observed, these were not considered directly related to the artwork installation works. The trees are expected to remain viable in future if managed appropriately.

Species

All recorded trees were identified as *Platanus x acerifolia* (London Plane). The London Plane tree is a popular street planting in Melbourne for its straight stem and large spreading green canopy. The species was introduced to Melbourne in the mid-19th century and have demonstrated to be tolerant of unfavourable conditions in the urban environment (Arboriculture Victoria, n.d.). The species does not have a preference of soil pH and can grow in acidic, neutral or alkaline soils (Botanic Gardens of South Australia, n.d.).

Health and Structure

Overall, the health of the tree population was regarded to be in Good and Fair condition, with only one tree receiving a Fair to Poor health rating.

Tree Health was based on foliage colour, size, and density as well as shoot initiation and elongation. In general, the assessed trees exhibited Good, Fair or typical health for the species growing under the current urban environmental conditions with ten (10) trees displaying Good or Fair Health, and one (1) tree exhibiting Fair to Poor health.

Tree Structure was assessed for structural defects and deficiencies, likelihood of failures and risk to potential targets.

- Six (6) trees displayed Fair structure with minimal structural concerns, such as developing over-extended branches, occluding trunk wounds, most of which could be managed with practical arboricultural treatment, where warranted.
- Five (5) trees displayed structural conditions of concern such as trunk decay with cavities, pruning wounds with decay not occluding well, past failures, included bark, and previous pollarding pruning location with cavities.

Arboricultural rating

The assessed trees were attributed an arboricultural rating. This rating relates to the combination of tree condition factors, including health and structure (arboricultural merit), and which conveys an amenity value.

The potential arboricultural ratings range from 'High' through three categories of 'Moderate' value (Mod. A, B or C) down to Low value trees. No trees attracted a High or Low rating, four (4) trees attracted a Moderate A rating, six (6) trees attracted a Moderate B rating, one (1) tree attracted a Moderate C rating. Refer to Table 1 for breakdown of arboricultural rating.

Table 1: Summary of arboricultural ratings for trees.

Arboricultural Rating	CoM Asset ID & Treelogic Tree ID	Count
Moderate A	1029380 (Tree 2), 1029379 (Tree 3), 1029376 (Tree 6), 1029375 (Tree 7)	4
Moderate B	1441739 (Tree 1), 1029378 (Tree 4), 1029377 (Tree 5), 1029373 (Tree 9), 1029372 (Tree 10), 1029371 (Tree 11)	6
Moderate C	1640139 (Tree 8)	1
Grand Total		11

Tree Management Recommendations

No works recommendations had an Urgent, High or a Medium timeframe. All recommendations were within a Low or Very Low timeframe. If considered to be more cost-effective or convenient, Very Low priority works could be addressed at the same time as those of Low priority. Alternatively, they could be reinspected during the next annual audit during which any relevant changes would be considered and updated recommendations provided.

A total of nine trees had works recommendations, of which four were for annual reinspection.

The following trees were recommended for reinspection annually or after major weather events. The trees displayed conditions of concern, such as decay, past failures and deadwood.

- Tree 5 (Asset ID 1029377)
- Tree 7 (Asset ID 1029375)
- Tree 10 (Asset ID 1029372)
- Tree 11 (Asset ID 1029371)

Trees 2 (Asset ID 1029380), and 6 (Asset ID 1029376) require end weight reduction on branches becoming over-extended and clearing of the light poles.

It was recommended that the epicormic growth at the base of Tree 4 (Asset ID 1029378) be removed.

Tree 8 (Asset ID 1640139) was recommended for mulching and supplemental watering during summer.

A climbing inspection should be undertaken by a minimum AQF Level 5 arborist to inspect the extent of the cavity of Tree 9 (Asset ID 1029373). The inspection should determine whether sufficient holding wood is present at the scaffold branch attachment and if an end-weight reduction of the branch is required to reduce the loading on the attachment.

Most trees with exposed surface roots had surface root damage consistent with mower contact. It is recommended that the area is not mown with a ride-on mower as it causes further damage to exposed roots. Root wounds may increase susceptibility to pests, pathogens and decay, and may contribute to longer-term tree health and structural decline.

No tree assets warrant removal or replacement. Refer to Table 2 for proposed works and photographs

Table 2: Proposed works and photographs



Plate 1: Viewing west of Tree 2 (Asset ID 1029380)

Recommended Works 1: End-weight reduction on branch to tram at south-east + Clear light pole

Timeframe: Low

Red arrows indicate proposed works



Plate 2: Viewing west of Tree 4 (Asset ID 1029378).

Recommended works: Remove epicormic growth at base

Timeframe: Very Low

Red arrow indicates epicormic growth at base.



Plate 3: Viewing west of Tree 5 (Asset ID 1029377).

Recommended works: Annual Inspection

Timeframe: Low

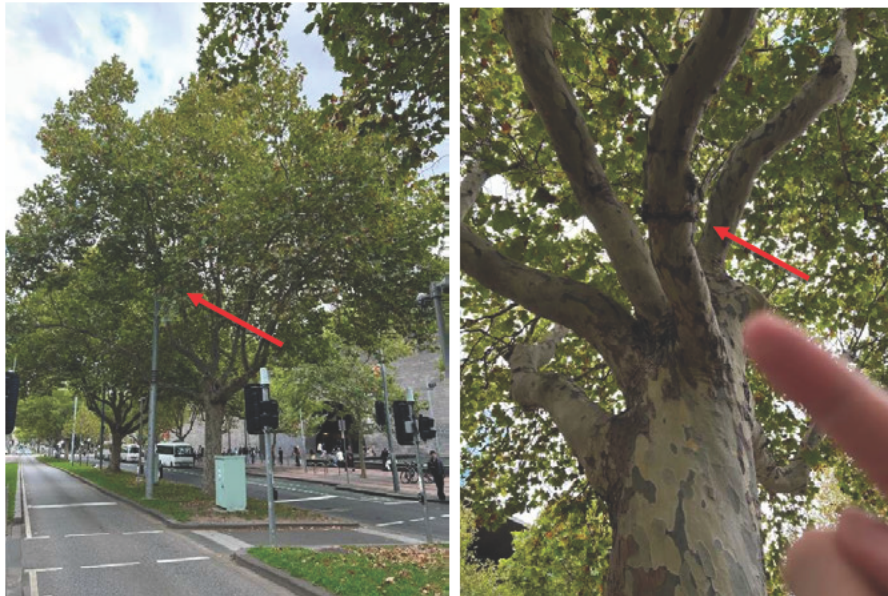


Plate 4: Viewing west of Tree 6 (Asset ID 1029376)

Recommended works: 5% end-weight reduction of reduction of branch to southeast + Light pole clearance

Timeframe: Low

Red arrow indicates light pole to be cleared (left) and branch that is being girdled (right) branch to be end weight reduced.



Plate 5: Viewing west of Tree 8 (Asset ID 1640139)

Recommended works: Supplemental watering during summer and mulching around base to avoid further mower damage

Timeframe: Low



Plate 6: Viewing west of Tree 9 (Asset ID 1029373)

Recommended works: Climbing inspection to establish depth of decay and amount of holding wood – further works to be recommended upon findings of inspection

Timeframe: Low

Red arrow indicates area of decay at branch attachment to be inspected



Plate 7: Viewing west of Tree 10 (Asset ID 1029372)

Recommended works: Annual Inspection

Timeframe: Low

Red arrow indicates mistletoe.



Plate 8: Viewing north-west of Tree 11 (Asset ID 1029371)

Recommended works: Annual Inspection

Timeframe: Low

Red arrows indicate girdling root, mower damage, and trunk cavity.

Any pruning that is undertaken must be carried out by a minimum AQF3 qualified arborist (or equivalent) and comply with AS 4373-2007 '*Pruning of amenity trees*'.

Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

Signed

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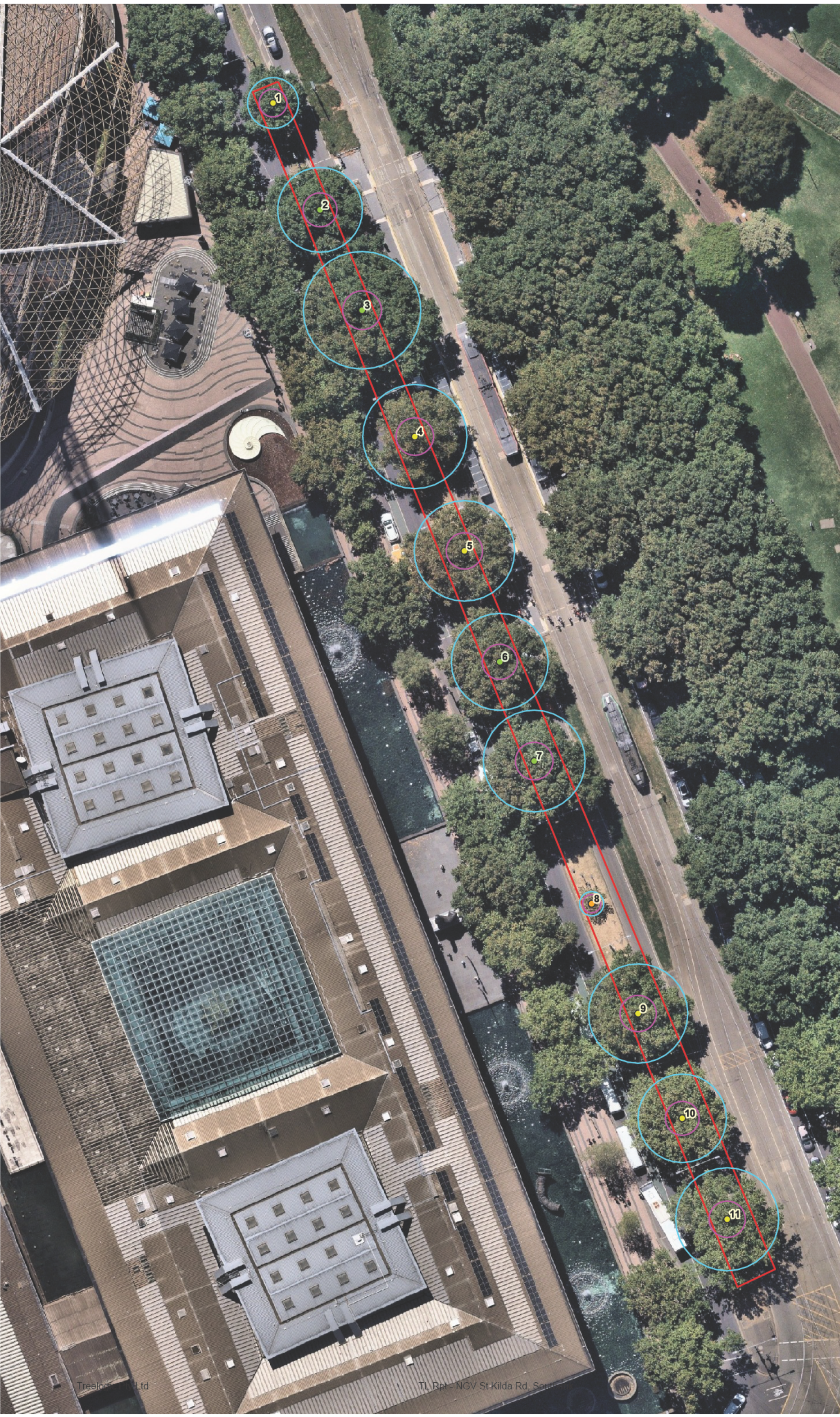
Appendix 1 – Tree Data Table

Key: DSH = Diameter at standard height 1.4, DBH = Diameter at breast height, 1.4m above ground level, unless otherwise indicated. Basal dimensions is trunk diameter at base immediately above root buttress. ARB rating = arboricultural rating. NRZ = Notional Root Zone, TPZ = Tree protection zone in radial metres. SRZ = Structural root zone in radial metres. Definition of the descriptor categories used in the assessment can be seen in Appendix 3.

Appendix 1:

CoM Asset ID	Treelogic Tree ID	Botanical name and common name	Age	Origin	DSH (cm)	DAB (cm)	Height x Width	Health	Structure	Arb. Rating	ULE	Comments	Works Recommendation	Time Frame	TPZ (m radius)	SRZ (m radius)
1441739	1	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> (London Plane)	Early-mature	Exotic deciduous	35	42	14x12	Fair	Fair	Mod.B	21 to 40	Included bark	-	-	4.2	2.3
1029380	2	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> (London Plane)	Maturing	Exotic deciduous	58	66	18x12	Good	Fair	Mod.A	21 to 40	Over-extended limbs developing	5% end weight reduction of branch to tram south east + Light pole clearance	Low	7	2.8
1029379	3	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> (London Plane)	Maturing	Exotic deciduous	81	94	24x21	Good	Fair	Mod.A	21 to 40	Deadwood; Hangers; Mower damage to surface roots	-	-	9.7	3.2
1029378	4	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> (London Plane)	Maturing	Exotic deciduous	72	83	18x15	Fair	Fair to Poor	Mod.B	21 to 40	Epicormic shoots; Mower damage to surface roots; Trunk decay at prior pruning wounds	Remove epicormics at base Monitor	Very Low	8.6	3.1
1029377	5	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> (London Plane)	Maturing	Exotic deciduous	69	80	18x19	Fair	Fair to Poor	Mod.B	21 to 40	Trunk decay trunk exudation; decay main leader	Annual Inspection	Low	8.3	3
1029376	6	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> (London Plane)	Maturing	Exotic deciduous	67	76	18x13	Good	Fair	Mod.A	>40	Trunk wound occluding well; girdling of limb at approx. 1m from attachment	Light pole clearance 5% end weight reduction of branch to south east	Low	8	2.9
1029375	7	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> (London Plane)	Maturing	Exotic deciduous	70	84	20x15	Good	Fair	Mod.A	21 to 40	Deadwood >50mm; Decay-cavity at previous pruning wound over road to southeast	Annual Inspection	Low	8.4	3.1
1640139	8	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> (London Plane)	Semi-mature	Exotic deciduous	11	14	8x6	Fair to Poor	Fair	Mod.C	21 to 40	Basal wounds; Reduced foliage density; mower damage to surface roots	Supplemental watering in summer and mulch	Low	2	1.5
1029373	9	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> (London Plane)	Maturing	Exotic deciduous	68	77	18x15	Good	Fair to Poor	Mod.B	11 to 20	Decay top of east trunk - further inspection climbing	Climbing inspection - decay at top of trunk east	Low	8.2	3
1029372	10	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> (London Plane)	Maturing	Exotic deciduous	61	70	16x17	Fair	Fair to Poor	Mod.B	21 to 40	Mistletoe dying on trunk; decay and cavity on main leader	Annual Inspection	Low	7.3	2.8
1029371	11	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i> (London Plane)	Maturing	Exotic deciduous	71	80	18x15	Fair	Fair to Poor	Mod.B	21 to 40	Mistletoe; Mower damage to surface roots; Past limb failure; Trunk decay	Annual Inspection	Low	8.5	3

Appendix 2 – Tree Location Map



LEGEND

- Arboricultural Rating
- Mod-A
 - Mod-B
 - Mod-C
- Tree Protection Zones/
Notional Root Zones
Structural Root Zones
- TPZ
 - SRZ
- subject site

APPENDIX 2
TREE LOCATIONS
AND PROTECTION
ZONES

PROJECT
NGV St Kilda Rd, Southbank
Median trees condition
assessment

TL REF. 014203	MAP NO. 1 / 1
CLIENT City of Melbourne	DATE 2026-04-28

DATA SOURCES
Aerial Imagery: Nearmap 14/02/2026

TREE LOCATION DISCLAIMER
Tree locations are approximate

COORDINATE REFERENCE SYSTEM
EPSG:28355 | GDA 94 MGA Zone 55



TREELOGIC PTY LTD
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TEL: 1300 656 926

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Ringwood, VIC
Australia 3134



Appendix 3: Photos

Images taken on 14 April 2026 by Ethan Lua with an Iphone.



Image 1: Viewing south of Tree 1 (Asset ID 1441739)



Image 2: Viewing west of Tree 2 (Asset ID 1029380)



Image 3: Viewing west of Tree 3 (Asset ID 1029379)



Image 4: Viewing west of Tree 4 (Asset ID 1029378).



Image 5: Viewing west of Tree 5 (Asset ID 1029377).

As consistent with previous report tree exhibits reduced foliage density (autumn?) in comparison with Trees 1 – 3. Condition of concern observed – Trunk decay, trunk exudation and decay at main leader.



Image 6: Viewing west of Tree 6 (Asset ID 1029376)



Image 7: Viewing west of Tree 7 (Asset ID 1029375)



Image 8: Viewing west of Tree 8 (Asset ID 1640139), a semi-mature specimen in fair-poor health.



Image 9: Viewing west of Tree 9 (Asset ID 1029373)



Image 10: Viewing west of Tree 10 (Asset ID 1029372)



Image 11: Viewing north-west of Tree 11 (Asset ID 1029371)

References

- Arboriculture Victoria. (n.d.). *The global significance of London Plane trees*.
- Benson, A. R., & Morgenroth, J. (2025). Optimising root pruning responses in mature *Platanus × acerifolia* trees. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, 113, Article 129103.
- Standards Australia. (2007). AS 4373-2007: Pruning of amenity trees.
- Standards Australia. (2009). AS 4970-2009: Protection of trees on development sites.
- International Society of Arboriculture. (2017). Tree risk assessment manual (2nd ed.). ISA
- Arboriculture Victoria. (n.d.). *The global significance of London Plane trees*.

Appendix 3: Arboricultural Descriptors (February 2019)

Note that not all of the described tree descriptors may be used in a tree assessment and report. The assessment is undertaken with regard to contemporary arboricultural practices and consists of a visual inspection of external and above-ground tree parts.

1. Tree Condition

The assessment of tree condition evaluates factors of health and structure. The descriptors of health and structure attributed to a tree evaluate the individual specimen to what could be considered typical for that species growing in its location under current climatic conditions. For example, some species can display inherently poor branching architecture, such as multiple acute branch attachments with included bark. Whilst these structural defects may technically be considered arboriculturally poor, they are typical for the species and may not constitute an increased risk of failure. These trees may be assigned a structural rating of fair-poor (rather than poor) at the discretion of the assessor.

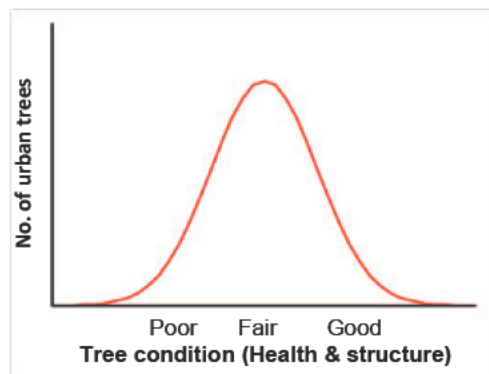


Diagram 1: Indicative normal distribution curve for tree condition

Diagram 1, provides an indicative distribution curve for tree condition to illustrate that within a normal tree population the majority of specimens are centrally located within the condition range (normal distribution curve). Furthermore, that those individual trees with an assessed condition approaching the outer ends of the spectrum occur less often.

2. Tree Name

Provides botanical name, (genus, species, variety and cultivar) according to accepted international code of taxonomic classification, and common name.

3. Tree Type

Describes the general geographic origin of the species and its type e.g. deciduous or evergreen.

Category	Description
Indigenous	Occurs naturally in the area or region of the subject site. Remnant.
Victorian native	Occurs naturally within some part of the State of Victoria (not exclusively) but is not indigenous (component of EVC benchmark). Could be planted indigenous trees.
Australian native	Occurs naturally within Australia but is not a Victorian native or indigenous
Exotic deciduous	Occurs outside of Australia and typically sheds its leaves during winter
Exotic evergreen	Occurs outside of Australia and typically holds its leaves all year round
Exotic conifer	Occurs outside of Australia and is classified as a gymnosperm
Native conifer	Occurs naturally within Australia and is classified as a gymnosperm
Native Palm	Occurs naturally within Australia. Woody monocotyledon
Exotic Palm	Occurs outside of Australia. Woody monocotyledon

4. Height and Width

Indicates height and width of the individual tree; dimensions are expressed in metres. Crown heights are measured with a height meter where possible. Due to the topography of some sites and/or the density of vegetation it may not be possible to do this for every tree. Tree heights may be estimated in line with previous height meter readings in conjunction with assessor's experience. Crown widths are generally paced (estimated) at the widest axis or can be measured on two axes and averaged. In some instances the crown width can be measured on the four cardinal direction points (North, South, East and West).

Crown height, crown spread are generally recorded to the nearest half metre (crown spread would be rounded up) for dimensions up to 10 m and the nearest whole metre for dimensions over 10 m. Estimated dimensions (e.g. for off-site or otherwise inaccessible trees where accurate data cannot be recovered) shall be clearly identified in the assessment data.

5. Trunk diameters

The position where trunk diameters are captured may vary dependent on the requirements of the specific assessment and an individual trees specific characteristics. DBH is the typical trunk diameter captured as it relates to the allocation of tree protection distances. The basal trunk diameter assists in the allocation of a structural root zone. Some municipalities require trunk diameters be captured at different heights, with 1.0 m above grade being a common requirement. The specific planning schemes will be checked to ascertain requirements.

Stem diameters shall be recorded in centimetres, rounded to the nearest 1 cm (0.01 m).

Diameter at Breast Height (DBH)

Indicates the trunk diameter (expressed in centimetres) of an individual tree measured at 1.4m above the existing ground level or where otherwise indicated, multiple leaders are measured individually. Plants with multiple leader habit may be measured at the base. The range of methods to suit particular trunk shapes, configurations and site conditions can be seen in Appendix A of Australian Standard AS 4970-2009 *Protection of trees on development sites*. Measurements undertaken using foresters tape or builders tape.

Basal trunk diameter

The basal dimension is the trunk diameter measured at the base of the trunk or main stem(s) immediately above the root buttress. Used to ascertain the Structural Root Zone (SRZ) as outlined in AS4970.

6. Age class

Relates to the physiological stage of the tree's life cycle.

Category	Description
Young	Sapling tree and/or recently planted. Approximately 5 or less years in location.
Semi-mature	Tree increasing in size and yet to achieve expected size in situation. Primary developmental stage.
Early-mature	Tree established, generally growing vigorously. > 50% of attainable age/size.
Mature	Specimen approaching expected size in situation, with reduced incremental growth.
Over-mature	Mature full-size with a retrenching crown. Tree is senescent and in decline. Significant decay generally present.

7. Health

Assesses various attributes to describe the overall health and vigour of the tree.

Health Category	Vigour, Extension growth	Decline symptoms, Deadwood, Dieback	Foliage density, colour, size, intactness	Pests and or disease
Good	Above typical. Excellent. Full canopy density	Negligible	Better than typical	Negligible
Fair	Typical vigour. >80% canopy density	Minor or expected. Little or no dead wood	Typical. Minor deficiencies or defects could be present.	Minor, within damage thresholds
Fair to Poor	Below typical - low vigour	More than typical. Small sub-branch dieback	Exhibiting deficiencies. Could be thinning, or smaller	Exceeds damage thresholds
Poor	Minimal - declining	Excessive, large and/or prominent amount & size of dead wood	Exhibiting severe deficiencies. Thinning foliage, generally smaller or deformed	Extreme and contributing to decline
Dead	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

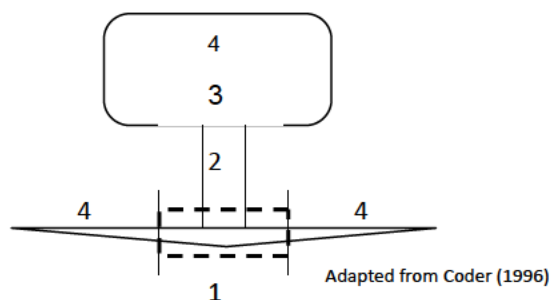
8. Structure

Assesses principal components of tree structure (Diagram 2).

Structure ratings will also take into account general branching architecture, stem taper, live crown ratio, crown symmetry (bias or lean) and crown position such as tree being suppressed amongst more dominant trees.

Diagram 2: Tree structure zones

1. Root plate & lower stem
2. Trunk
3. Primary branch support
4. Outer crown & roots



The lowest or worst descriptor assigned to the tree in any column could generally be the overall rating assigned to the tree. The assessment for structure is limited to observations of external and above ground tree parts. It does not include any exploratory assessment of underground or internal tree parts unless this is requested as part of the investigation. Trees are assessed and then given a rating for a point in time. Generally, trees with a poor or very poor structure are beyond the benefit of practical arboricultural treatments.

The management of trees in the urban environment requires appropriate arboricultural input and consideration of risk. Risk potential will take into account the combination of likelihood of failure and impact, including the perceived importance of the target(s). See table over page.

Structure Category	Zone 1 - Root plate & lower stem	Zone 2 - Trunk	Zone 3 - Primary branch support	Zone 4 - Outer crown and roots
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Good	No obvious damage, disease or decay; obvious basal flare / stable in ground	No obvious damage, disease or decay; well tapered	Well formed, attached, spaced and tapered. No history of failure.	No obvious damage, disease, decay or structural defect. No history of failure.
Fair	Minor damage or decay. Basal flare present.	Minor damage or decay	Generally well attached, spaced and tapered branches. Minor structural deficiencies may be present or developing. No history of branch failure.	Minor damage, disease or decay; minor branch end-weight or over-extension. No history of branch failure.
Fair to Poor	Moderate damage or decay; minimal basal flare.	Moderate damage or decay; approaching recognised thresholds	Weak, decayed or with acute branch attachments; previous branch failure evidence.	Moderate damage, disease or decay; moderate branch end-weight or over-extension. Minor branch failure evident.
Poor	Major damage, disease or decay; fungal fruiting bodies present. Excessive lean placing pressure on root plate	Major damage, disease or decay; exceeds recognised thresholds; fungal fruiting bodies present. Acute lean. Stump re-sprout	Decayed, cavities or has acute branch attachments with included bark; excessive compression flaring; failure likely. Evidence of major branch failure.	Major damage, disease or decay; fungal fruiting bodies present; major branch end-weight or over-extension. Branch failure evident.
Very Poor	Excessive damage, disease or decay; unstable / loose in ground; altered exposure; failure probable	Excessive damage, disease or decay; cavities. Excessive lean. Stump re-sprout	Decayed, cavities or branch attachments with active split; failure imminent. History of major branch failure.	Excessive damage, disease or decay; excessive branch end-weight or over-extension. History of branch failure.

Useful life expectancy

Assessment of useful life expectancy provides an indication of health and tree appropriateness and involves an estimate of how long a tree is likely to remain in the landscape based on species, stage of life (cycle), health, amenity, environmental services contribution, conflicts with adjacent infrastructure and risk to the community. It would enable tree managers to develop long-term plans for the eventual removal and replacement of existing trees in the public realm. It is not a measure of the biological life of the tree within the natural range of the species. It is more a measure of the health status and the trees positive contribution to the urban landscape.

Within an urban landscape context, particularly in relation to Road trees, it could be considered a point where the costs to maintain the asset (tree) outweigh the benefits the tree is returning.

The assessment is based on the site conditions not being significantly altered and that any prescribed maintenance works are carried out (site conditions are presumed to remain relatively constant and the tree would be maintained under scheduled maintenance programs). See table over page.

Useful Life Expectancy category	Typical characteristics
<1 year (No remaining ULE)	Tree may be dead or mostly dead. Tree may exhibit major structural faults. Tree may be an imminent failure hazard. Excessive infrastructure damage with high risk potential that cannot be remedied.
1-5 years (Transitory, Brief)	Tree is exhibiting severe chronic decline. Crown is likely to be less than 50% typical density. Crown may be mostly epicormic growth. Dieback of large limbs is common (large deadwood may have been pruned out). Tree may be over-mature and senescing. Infrastructure conflicts with heightened risk potential. Tree has outgrown site constraints.
6-10 years (Short)	Tree is exhibiting chronic decline. Crown density will be less than typical and epicormic growth is likely to present. The crown may still be mostly entire, but some dieback is likely to be evident. Dieback may include large limbs. Over-mature and senescing or early decline symptoms in short-lived species. Early infrastructure conflicts with potential to increase regardless of management inputs.
11-20 years (Moderate)	Tree not showing symptoms of chronic decline, but growth characteristics are likely to be reduced (bud development, extension growth etc.). Tree may be over-mature and beginning to senesce. Potential for infrastructure conflicts regardless of management inputs.
21-40 years (Moderately long)	Trees displaying normal growth characteristics but vigour is likely to be reduced (bud development, extension growth etc.). Tree may be growing in restricted environment (e.g. Roadscapes) or may be in late maturity. Semi-mature and mature trees exhibiting normal growth characteristics. Juvenile trees in Roadscapes.
>40 years (Long)	Generally juvenile and semi-mature trees exhibiting normal growth characteristics within adequate spaces to sustain growth, such as in parks or open space. Could also pertain to maturing, long-lived trees. Tree well suited to the site with negligible potential for infrastructure conflicts.

Note that ULE may change for a tree dependent on the prevailing climatic conditions, which can either increase or decrease, or sudden changes to a tree's growing environment creating an acute stress.

The ULE may not be applicable for trees that are manipulated, such as topiary, or grown for specific horticultural purposes, such as fruit trees.

There may be instances where remedial tree maintenance could be extend a tree's ULE.

9. Arboricultural Rating

Relates to the combination of tree condition factors, including health and structure (arboricultural merit), and also conveys an amenity value. Amenity relates to the trees biological, functional and aesthetic characteristics (Hitchmough 1994) within an urban landscape context. The presence of any serious disease or tree-related hazards that would impact risk potential are taken into account. See table over page.

Arboricultural rating Category	Description
High	Tree of high quality in good to fair condition; good vigour. Generally a prominent arboricultural/landscape feature. Particularly good example of the species; rare or uncommon. Tree may have significant conservation or other cultural value. These trees have the potential to be a medium- to long-term components of the landscape (moderately long to long ULE) if managed appropriately. Retention of these trees is highly desirable.
Moderate	<i>General -</i> Tree of moderate quality, in fair or better condition. Tree may have a condition, and or structural problem that will respond to arboricultural treatment. These trees have the potential to be a moderate- to long-term component of the landscape (moderate to long ULE) if managed appropriately. Retention of these trees is generally desirable. The following sub-categories relate predominately to age and size and amenity.
	A. Moderate to large, maturing tree. Contributes to the landscape character. Tree may have conservation or other cultural value.
	B. Moderate sized, established tree, > 50% of attainable age/size. Contributes to the landscape character. Maturing tree with amenity value but with identified deficiencies.
	C. Small and/or semi-mature tree, established, >5 years in the location. May not be a dominant canopy. No special qualities. Maturing tree with accumulating deficiencies, trending towards becoming of Low arboricultural value.
Low	Unremarkable tree of low quality or little amenity value. Tree in either poor health or with poor structure or a combination. Short to transitory useful life expectancy. Tree is not significant because of either its size or age, such as young trees with a stem diameter below 15 cm. Trees regularly pruned to restrict size. These trees are easily replaceable. Tree (species) is functionally inappropriate to specific location and would be expected to be problematic if retained. Retention of such trees may be considered if not requiring a disproportionate expenditure of resources for a tree in its condition and location.
Very Low	Trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of less than 5 years. Tree has either a severe structural defect or health problem or combination that cannot be sustained with practical arboricultural techniques and the loss of the tree would be expected in the short term. Trees that are dead or are showing signs of significant, immediate, and irreversible overall decline. Tree infected with pathogens of significance to either the health or safety of the tree or other adjacent trees. Tree whose retention would not be viable after the removal of adjacent trees (includes trees that have developed in close spaced groups and would not be expected to acclimatise to severe alterations to surrounding environment – removal of adjacent shelter trees). Tree has a detrimental effect on the environment, for example, the tree is a recognised environmental woody weed with potential to spread into waterways or natural areas. Unremarkable tree of no material landscape, conservation or other cultural value.

Trees have many values, not all of which are considered when an arboricultural assessment is undertaken. However, individual trees or tree group features may be considered important community resources because of unique or noteworthy characteristics or values other than their age, dimensions, health or structural condition. Recognition of one or more of the following criterion is designed to highlight other considerations that may influence the future management of such trees.

Significance	Description
Horticultural Value/ Rarity	Outstanding horticultural or genetic value; could be an important source of propagating stock, including specimens that are particularly resistant to disease or exposure. Any tree of a species or variety that is rare.
Historic, Aboriginal Cultural or Heritage Value	Tree could have value as a remnant of a particular important historical period or a remnant of a site or activity no longer in action. Tree has a recognised association with historic aboriginal activities, including scar trees. Tree commemorates a particular occasion, including plantings by notable people, or having associations with an important event in local history.
Ecological Value	Tree could have value as habitat for indigenous wildlife, including providing breeding, foraging or roosting habitat, or is a component of a wildlife reserve. Remnant Indigenous vegetation that contribute to biological diversity

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There can be no guarantees provided for on-going tree safety. It should be noted that not all of the potential structural concerns associated with trees can be eliminated and that there will always be a residual risk following any mitigation works. Also, not all tree defects are observable and extreme weather events are unpredictable. Since trees are complex, living organisms, it is difficult to quantify and precisely measure all variables when inspecting a standing tree for hazard.

Trees should be reassessed on a regular basis; the scheduled period of reassessment will be dependent on the characteristics of the tree, the landscape context and perceived targets, and resources available to maintain them.